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CC:  
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Subject: Greenwire - Smoldering landfill near St. Louis may threaten nuclear waste site

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## Smoldering landfill near St. Louis may threaten nuclear waste site

Greenwire - <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1059982002/feed>

Published: Thursday, May 30, 2013

A smoldering landfill near St. Louis has plagued residents with noxious odors for years, but environmentalists say a much greater threat looms as the fire inches toward a nuclear waste site.

Just below the surface of the Bridgeton Landfill, trash has been burning since at least 2010, being fed underground by decaying waste. The trash is now burning a mere 1,200 feet from another landfill that holds radioactive waste from the 1940s Manhattan Project, which created the first atomic bomb.

Phoenix-based Republic Services owns the Bridgeton site and is spending millions of dollars to combat the smell. Environmentalists, however, are more concerned that the fire could someday reach the nuclear waste in the nearby West Lake Landfill. EPA designated the area, owned by a subsidiary of Republic Services, a Superfund site in 1990.

If the fire continues at its current rate of movement, it will take 10 years for the underground smoldering to reach the nearest corner of the West Lake landfill, according to company spokesman Richard Callow.

Missouri health officials and the state's Department of Natural Resources are closely watching the smoldering, Callow said. In the event the fire gets close, Callow said, there are methods to shield the nuclear waste, including construction of a barrier made of soil between the two landfills (Jim Salter, [Associated Press](#), May 29). -- **KJ**